

**Remarks**

Claims 1-9 remain in the application, and claims 10-12 have been newly added.

The specification has been amended to include headings consistent with US practice.

The Abstract of the Disclosure has been amended to eliminate legal phraseology.

Claims 1-6 have been amended to eliminate references to steps, features claimed in the alternative, and the term "preferably." As such, claims 1-6 have been clarified by amendment above for purposes of form. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to claims 1-6 are neither narrowing nor made for substantial reasons related to patentability as defined by the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit (CAFC) in Festo Corporation v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., Ltd., 95-1066 (Fed. Cir. 2000). Therefore, the amendments to claims 1-6 do not create prosecution history estoppel and, as such, the doctrine of equivalents is available for all of the elements of claims 1-6.

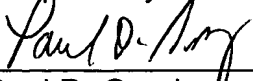
Claims 10-12 are newly added. Claims 10 and 12 recites features originally claimed as "preferable" in claim 6, and claim 11 recites features originally claimed in the alternative in claim 6.

Consideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version With Markings to Show Changes Made."

7/23/01  
Date

Respectfully submitted,

  
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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

In The Specification

On page 1, between lines 3 and 4, insert -- 1. Field of the Invention --.

On page 1, between lines 5 and 6, insert -- 2. Discussion of the Background Art --.

In The Abstract

Please amend the abstract as follows:

An interface to a network management system of a communication network is described. The communication network [comprises] includes a number of objects being stored in a database on a server. The network management system is located on the server which may be accessed by a client. The communication network [comprises] provides for the transmission of data between the server and the client under the use of the Common Object Request Broker Architecture (CORBA). The interface [comprises] includes a definition for a struct which only includes at least one attribute but no operation. Furthermore, the interface provides a factory for retrieving these structs, and creating objects representing elements of the communication network.

In The Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended)        A method of operating a communication network with a network management system, wherein said communication network comprises a number of objects being stored in a database on a server, and wherein said network management system is located on the server which can be accessed by a client, said method of operating the communication network comprises the transmission of data between the server and the client under the use of the Common Object Request Broker Architecture (CORBA), said method comprising

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[the step of] using a definition for a struct which only includes at least one attribute but no operation.

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising [the further step of] using a definition for an interface that only includes an operation but not necessarily any attribute.

3. (Amended) The method of claim 2 further comprising [the further step of] including a reference to said struct in said interface.

4. (Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising [the further step] that an instruction from the client which is directed to the struct on the server, results in sending data from the server to the client.

5. (Amended) The method of claim 4 further comprising [the further step of] not storing the data sent to the client on the server.

6. (Amended) A computer program [or a computer program product preferably stored on a data carrier,] for executing [the method of claim 1] a method of operating a communication network with a network management system when run on a data processing system such as a computer, wherein said communication network comprises a number of objects being stored in a database on a server, and wherein said network management system is located on the server which can be accessed by a client, said method of operating the communication network comprises the transmission of data between the server and the client under the use of the Common Object Request Broker Architecture (CORBA), said method comprising using a definition for a struct which only includes at least one attribute but no operation.

Please add the following new claims:

10. (Newly added) The computer program of claim 6, wherein said computer program is stored on a data carrier.

11. (Newly added) A computer program product for executing a method of operating a communication network with a network management system when

run on a data processing system such as a computer, wherein said communication network comprises a number of objects being stored in a database on a server, and wherein said network management system is located on the server which can be accessed by a client, said method of operating the communication network comprises the transmission of data between the server and the client under the use of the Common Object Request Broker Architecture (CORBA), said method comprising using a definition for a struct which only includes at least one attribute but no operation.

12. (Newly added) The computer program product of claim 11, wherein said computer program product is stored on a data carrier.

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